

flat boat to this city when we will again let him tell his own story about the fire that occurred last winter at the landing.—We give it as we find it, and our readers must judge for themselves of its truth or fiction. This much is certain that it corroborates and coincides with the prevalent opinion at the time, and should make our citizens more vigilant, and cause them to keep more scrutiny on those who may appear to be prowling about our city with no manifest employment or means of livelihood.

"In the fall, I left my home once more and obtained employment on a flat boat that was going to Natchez, in which place I remained three months. The thieves and gamblers of that city had been driven away by the inhabitants; but a number of them returned about the same time that I arrived there. They said that they were determined on having revenge for the supposed injury that had been done them by the inhabitants, in forcing them to leave the city. I assisted these men in putting their threats into execution.—We set fire to the town, which consumed nearly every house under the hill. I started with two other men, intending to visit Vicksburg and serve it in the same way that we had served Natchez; but on the journey I was taken sick, and when I reached Vicksburg I was not expected to live. I remained there six weeks, and then concluded to return home to my mother, which I did, and remained there until the fall 1835, during which time I was employed at farming with my step-father."

After this he pursued his infamous and bloody career marked with almost unparalleled atrocity till last November, when he was found guilty of the murder, in Cincinnati, of a man by the name of Hoover, being betrayed by his accomplices, and what makes the case somewhat singular was, that the evidence on which he was condemned was false and perjured, but the fact of his being concerned in the matter nevertheless true as he himself admits.

## LIBERTY ADVOCATE

LIBERTY, MARCH 21, 1837.

Mr. Hall.—Please announce MORGAN DAVIS Esq., as a candidate to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of F. C. Talbert, Esq., in our next Legislature, and oblige  
MANY VOTERS OF AMITE.

The STATE RIGHTS ASSOCIATION OF AMITE COUNTY are requested to meet at the Court House in Liberty, on Monday the 10th day of April next—it being the first day of Court.

Owing to the derangement of the mails, we have received nothing from the editor this week. By a gentleman, who conversed with Mr. Graves on Thursday last, we learn that he declines holding a poll for the Legislature, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Mr. Talbert.

Our patience has been put to the test this week. Owing to the heavy rains, and the strike among the mail riders, we have had but one mail since our last publication, by which we received only four newspapers, and they as barren of news as our debtors would have us believe their pockets are of cash. However, we have culled over our old exchanges and found matter sufficient to fill our sheet, which we present to our readers for what it is worth.

Amite County, March 15th, 1837.

Mr. Hall.—I was much pleased, in looking over the last number of the Liberty Advocate, to perceive that public opinion is becoming awake on the subject of the next general election. There is not much doubt but there will be many important subjects brought before the Legislature at its next regular session; and it is important that Amite should be represented by the best talents she can command. I was also much gratified to perceive some signs indicative of the quarter to which the public is likely to look, in making a selection, in part, of her next representatives. I allude to the call made upon JAMES J. GRAVES, Esq., to become a candidate. I know of no man who can, in my opinion, bring forward more claims to the support of his fellow citizens than Mr. Graves. He has talents to command respect, and the independence to avow his opinions at all times, and defend the interest of his constituents. He has also—if I am not mistaken—the claim of being a native of Amite county, which is recognized by many as tantamount to any other that can be brought forward. This predilection in favor of those that are raised among us, though it may be carried to extremes, is, in general, a commendable trait in a man's character; and it is not only wise policy, but it is our bounden duty, to foster and bring forward native talent, whenever and wherever found. Under this view of the subject, I cannot but think, that, if talents, if zeal and independence of mind, and being a native of the county, are strong claims in favor of a man, Mr. Graves must stand among the most prominent men of our county. These remarks are not offered as an empty puff, but a tribute which the writer thinks justly due the merits of Mr. Graves. He has not the pleasure even of a personal acquaintance with him, but has formed his opinion from the perusal of the many editorial articles in the Advocate, and he cannot, therefore, have any inducement for making the above remarks, other than the one already

mentioned. And if Mr. Graves will consent to run for the Legislature, he will receive, at least, the support of  
ONE OF THE PEOPLE.

**NULLIFICATION.**—In a previous number, we have demonstrated the sovereignty, independence & separate existence of the states. Indeed, the position is so clearly deducible from the whole history of the thirteen colonies; so markedly developed in every written compact into which they have entered; and so ably and eloquently sustained by the proud Republican spirits that have adorned our country's annals, that it would seem entirely superfluous to offer any argument upon the subject. But the high and extraordinary functionary who has fulminated his thunders against the position, and furiously denounced its advocates as disorganizers and rebellious disunionists; demanded, on the contrary, that we should bestow on it a passing notice. In this number, we shall present our readers with an extract from the same address that we have heretofore made extracts from:

"Let us now turn our attention to the peculiar kind of government organized by the Federal Constitution. Governments are thrown into two great divisions, *Free and Despotism*. Free governments are those in which the people are recognized as the source of all power, the creators of the government, and the government the agent, and where the government is limited both in theory and practice. Despotism is that government in which the people are regarded as subjects, the government as sovereign, and where the government is unlimited both in theory and practice, or limited in theory but unlimited in practice. It matters not whether the government be designated as democratic or republican, if it be limited in theory but unlimited in practice, it is a despotism, and cannot be otherwise. A free government is the kind our forefathers wisely thought they had established for this infant republic. In the caption of the present Constitution, we find a specification of the objects of this confederacy. 'We, the people of the U. S., in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, promote the general welfare, provide for the common defence, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.' To provide for these objects, they organized a general government. This general government they divided into three distinct, co-ordinate and independent departments, viz: the Executive, Legislative and Judicial. To each of these departments they assigned distinct and respective orbs in which to revolve. To the Executive was assigned the execution of the laws, and to the Legislative, the enactment of laws, and to the Judicial, the power of adjudging upon any case that should arise under the laws, &c. The powers conferred to these respective departments, had in view the objects defined in the caption of the Constitution. But those objects in which all the States felt a mutual and general interest, being few and limited, while the local and domestic concerns of each State were very numerous and complex, therefore improper to be confided to a supreme national government with exclusive jurisdiction over such an extensive tract of country, the States, for that reason, resolved to delegate to a general government only, so many powers as were necessary effectually to provide for those general objects, and at the same time reserve to themselves the 'residuary mass of right' to their own separate governments, for the purpose of providing for their local and peculiar concerns. This general government being invested with the management of our relations with foreign nations, the sister States, and the Indian tribes, has been designated the *foreign governments*. There is this important distinction, as regards the extent of the powers between the Federal and State governments. The Federal government can only exercise those powers that have been specifically delegated to it; while while the State governments can exercise all powers which are not specifically retained, with some few exceptions, which it is unnecessary to mention. In this compound system, we are struck with admiration at the wisdom displayed in its structure. Beauty and solidity are nicely blended, and the conflicting interests of different sections of this widely extended confederacy, are restored to their own natural harmonizing agencies. It requires both the Federal and State governments to constitute a complete government. They are both parts of a simple whole, in the same manner that the three departments of a government are parts of one simple whole. A most striking analogy is this, that the State governments bear the same relation to the Federal government that the different departments of a government bear to each other. The State and Federal governments are just as independent of each other, though they be parts of one whole, as the three departments of a government are, though they be but parts of a simple whole; that the former governments bear precisely the same relation to the whole of which they are parts, that the latter departments bear to the whole of which they are parts. But this beautiful system does not rest its

claims to our admiration upon this superficial glance at its conformation. If we look deeper into the subject, we will find that the general government derives its operation within the limits of a State, from the same source from which the acts of the State governments derive their binding force, viz: the people of a State. It is by the consent of the people of each individual State, that the Constitution of the United States, the laws and treaties made in pursuance thereof, are operative within its limits. So it is by the consent of each that the acts of the State government are binding. They must both look for the operation of their acts within the limits of a State, to the same source—the people of a State.

If we look still further into this subject, we will discover another important feature that lays claim to our admiration. It is this, that the people of each State stands armed with a veto power, to check all encroachments of either Federal or State governments, or of the different departments of either government upon each other, within their respective territorial limits. According to the distribution of powers between the Federal and State governments, we will quickly learn that the Federal government can only exercise those powers specifically granted to it. Neither can the State government resume the exercise of undelegated power, nor powers prohibited to it either by the State or Federal Constitutions. Should the Federal government assume the exercise of undelegated power, and thus wantonly trample under foot the Constitution of our fathers, the people of each State, they alone being parties to the constitutional compact, have the right to assemble in convention, declare the act unconstitutional, and arrest the operation within its territorial limits, until a convention of the States be called to assign the disputed power to the Federal government, if it should decide in favor of the States. On the other hand, should a State government resume the exercise of delegated power, or powers prohibited to it, the people of that State have the same right, as in the above case, to assemble in convention, and declare such an act unconstitutional, and arrest its operation; but should the people in convention sanction the unconstitutional act and thus become accessory to a violation of the Constitution, the Federal government has within its reach the same remedy, as in the above case, the call of a convention of the States to adjust the dispute amicably, in accordance with the provisions of the 5th Article of the Constitution.

To the extent of the delegated powers, the Federal government is supreme, but beyond the Constitution, the federal government has no more power to bind me by its acts, than the British Parliament. To the extent of the delegated powers, they are united, because they have agreed to exercise conjointly these powers, in providing for those general concerns in which they all felt a mutual interest; but to the extent of the reserved powers they are as much out of the union as if no such union existed, because they agreed to observe all powers not delegated nor prohibited, to themselves respectively, to be exercised in providing for the peculiar and domestic concerns of each State, in which there was no common and mutual interest. So much for the supposed anomaly of being in the Union and out of the Union at the same time.—This right of a State to interpose and arrest the unconstitutional action of the Federal government, does not at all conflict with the right of a majority to rule. A majority have no more of a natural right to rule in the United States, than they have in England, France or Russia. The right of a majority to rule is not a natural, inherent, indestructible right pre-existing the formation of the Constitution and governments; but it is a conventional or derivative right, emanating from the Constitutions under which we live, subject to the limitations and restrictions imposed by the Constitutions.—In the cases submitted to them a majority has the unquestionable right to rule, but they have no right to rule in the cases not submitted to them. They have no more right to step beyond the Constitution and legislate me into slavery, than the King of England or the Autocrat of Russia. So far as the Constitution authorizes a majority to go, we readily concede their acts are binding; but we do say, that when a majority invades the Constitution of our land, and breaks down the barriers thrown around it by that sacred instrument, then and in such case only, their acts and doings are in contravention of the Constitution, not made in pursuance thereof, and therefore unconstitutional, and as such, are no laws at all, are of no binding force, to which neither State nor individual is bound to submit. In fact, the doctrine that a majority shall rule in all cases, is ill suited to the meridian under which we live, and savours too much of British Parliamentary omnipotence. It would throw our government into that class of despotism governments which I have described as *limited* in theory but *unlimited* in practice. This free into despotism governments, is not so alarming, so frightfully awakening, as when the broad and undisguised ground is assumed that the government is *unlimited* in theory; but it is not the less dangerous for the mild form displayed in its change, or the specious garb under which it may approach. In fact these treacherous inroads into the free institutions of our Republic are far more powerful and dan-

gerous, as they come disrobed of every alarming feature, disarmed of all terror. They woo us insensibly into a calm indifference, and while we are tamely yielding to the gentle advances of this evil genius, ere we are aware, an iron despotism may have erected its dominion on the ruins of our so much boasted liberty. Beware, my countrymen, how you repose on the bosom of this traitorous Demon, that has so often lulled to sleep, with its syren voice, the faithful sentinel on the watch-tower, mounted the rampart, seized the diadem, and brandished its bloody sceptre over the fallen liberties of millions of human beings. The tyrant's march is ever onward, onward; but it is always softened by so many fallacious appearances, and professions of friendship, disguised under such an imposing mask that we are enchanted, and ere the charm is dissolved, it has thrown the torch of conflagration into the temple of freedom, setting our doom on the heaps of ruins, and irrevocably fasten on us the chains of slavery. Let not the awful shouts of 'People' and 'Democracy' balm our apprehensions, nor the errors of the sword overawe us into submission to the hostile inroads of arbitrary power; but on our shield let us inscribe this dear and sacred motto, 'Liberty or Death,' the rallying sign of the champions of the enslaved in every clime. Around it let us gather, in the exalted remembrance of revolutionary triumphs, to measure swords with the mercenary legions of Despotism in defence of those inestimable rights and privileges for which our fathers challenged the haughty power of Britain and bid a nation of slaves to shake off their fetters, and take rank among the sovereigns of the earth.

Extract of a letter from the correspondent of the U. S. Telegraph, dated, Harrisburg, Pa., February 23d, 1837.

DEAR SIR:—The Abolition Convention, for the formation of a State Anti-Slavery Society, has just closed its sittings in this city. The public prints of both political parties, will, undoubtedly, endeavor to hide its importance from the people of the South. But it is, in truth, the most important movement which these men have ever made. It is like establishing an abolition manufactory in the slave States themselves. It is designed to act upon Virginia, Delaware and Maryland; and it will act with tremendous effect. Already the abolition question is mooted in Delaware, and yet the South is told that the fanatics can do nothing. The falsehood of Governor Marcy's message in this respect, should be exposed, or the South will soon find that it has been betrayed by its pretended friends.

But, to the Convention. TWO HUNDRED DELEGATES,—men, whom a member of the Legislature in his speech has pronounced 'equal in respectability, talents, and integrity, to any in the State,' men of wealth and influence, have been convened for the last three days. Tappan, Scott, Phelps, Burleigh, Whittier, and others from different sections of the country, were with them. Dr. F. Julius Le Moyne, of Washington co., a man of powerful intellect, great personal influence, and an eloquent speaker presided over the meeting. Resolutions, addresses, &c., and mark this, *an address to the working men of Pennsylvania*, setting forth that slavery has a tendency to degrade the laborer of the North, have been adopted, and will soon be scattered broadcast over the key-stone State. Men of all parties, from the whole-hog Dallas democrat to the high-toned federalist, have joined hands in this matter, and to crown all, the sum of ten thousand five hundred dollars, has been pledged or paid to carry on the mighty operations of this truly formidable Society. BENJAMIN LUNDY, the earliest and most indefatigable of this band, is to edit the official organ of the Society at Philadelphia.

Such are the facts in the case. Interested politicians may seek to hide them, but the delusion cannot last long. The masses in Pennsylvania, under the rousing eloquence of such lecturers as Burleigh, Blanchard, Gould, and others, are fast becoming abolitionized, and will soon send their petitions and remonstrances, ay, and abolition Congressmen with them, like the frogs of Egypt, into the Halls of Congress.

**ABOLITION—THE BALL IN MOTION.**—There was a quite a curious abolition debate in the Assembly last Friday. About thirty or forty black rascals of Troy petitioned to have the Constitution altered, and to be allowed to vote at elections. A long debate took place, and after a great deal of talk, it was rejected—74 to 23. The abolition party is no trifle. Twenty-three votes at the first division in one house.—N. Y. Com.

**ABOLITION AND AMALGAMATION.**—The Abolition Convention at Harrisburg, is said to be attended by delegates from the several New England States, as well as from New York, New Jersey and Ohio, and numbers among its members, were negroes. According to a Philadelphia correspondent, considerable feeling was created by a speech from Mr. Tappan, in which he expressed his disapprobation that some of the colored delegates were not among the officers, and declared it unbefitting the Convention that the blacks were obliged to take separate seats!!

A boy being told that his jacket was too short, said it would be long enough before he would get another.

## ANOTHER LETTER.

The reader will find, below, the letter referred to in our report of the Senate proceedings yesterday, addressed by Andrew Jackson, President of the United States, to the Hon. John C. Calhoun. We also present the substance of the remarks made by Mr. Calhoun, after the reading of the letter by the Secretary of the Senate.

But that the public mind is fully prepared for any course of conduct, however extravagant, on the part of the President, this epistle might excite surprise. Its menacing tone and coarse style, reflect most faithfully, the character of the writer. Had it proceeded from the brother where lewd vagabonds and fuddled braves meet to vent their noisy wrath in boisterous billingsgate, it might have been passed by as unworthy of notice; but coming, as it does, from one who holds the station of Chief Magistrate of this Republic, it cannot but excite feelings of regret and indignation. How it must appear in the eyes of other nations, we know not; but here, in our own country, it must be regarded as disgraceful and audacious.

This is the first fruits of the expunging process—that midnight of shame and degradation. In the remarks made by Mr. Clay, he called upon Senators to mark the fruits of their conduct. Here was not only a gross insult offered to a member of this body for words charged to have been uttered in debate, but a flagrant breach of privilege committed by the Supreme Executive power. What could they do? He had waited, he said, under the hope that some member of the party in power would move in some way to preserve the dignity and rights of the body. But all sat silent, bound by the chains they had forged for themselves. For his own part, he would make no motion, and he trusted that no one in the opposition would.

When he had finished his observations, in the highest degree solemn and impressive, there was, for a few moments, the most profound silence. All eyes were turned to the administration benches, but not a word was uttered. They sat like criminals with halters about their necks. Messrs. Grundy and Walker had already borne testimony to the truth of Mr. Calhoun's statements, but none other uttered a word, or proposed any measure to vindicate the honor, dignity, and rights of the Senate, or of its members.

And this is the Senate of the United States of America!! Where shall the honest patriot turn his eyes to shun the deep and damning evidences of national disgrace and degradation? Do these men delight in dishonor? Do they bow to insult without even the blush of shame? Do they submit to outrage without even the feeling of resistance? Have they lost, not only the ennobling emotion of gentlemen, but the common sensibilities of men? O Shame! Shame! Shame! Rights? Privileges? Resistance? These words are not in their vocabulary. Would they have resisted had they been kicked out of their seats? No! not five of the whole number would have dared to say 'I am a freeman and a Senator.' It is of such materials that despotism has made instruments to enslave mankind in all ages of the world. And were this modern tyrant to command them to strike down the constitution of the country, removing the fear of the people from before them, we do solemnly believe, before the God that made us, they would not hesitate one hour.—U. S. Telegraph.

In Senate, February 9th, 1837.  
MR. CALHOUN said: I have received, within the last forty-eight hours, a communication from the Chief Magistrate, connected with the bill now before the Senate, of such a nature that duty to myself, as well as to this body, renders it necessary that I should lay it before the Senate.

[Here Mr. C. sent to the Secretary the letter, which was read as follows:]

"WASHINGTON, Feb 7th, 1837.  
"Sir: In the Globe of the 6th instant, I find the report of a speech made by you on the 4th, upon the Land Bill, which contains the following passages, viz:—

"Was it not notorious that the President of the United States himself, had been connected with the purchase of the public lands? Yes, the 'experiment,' (Mr. Calhoun delighted in the word) was the cause of speculation in public lands, and if this bill should not be passed, speculations could not go on, and the price of public lands must consequently be reduced. He contended that every man could not but see that it would be utter ruin to those who had borrowed money to speculate in public lands, if the system was not to go on."

"In a former part of your speech, as reported, you say:—

"The speculation which a particular state of things had given rise to, had been produced by those in power. They had profited by that state of things; and should this be passed, it would only consummate their wishes," &c. &c. &c.

"Knowing the liabilities of reporters to err in taking down and writing out the speeches of members of Congress, I have made enquiry relative to the accuracy of this report, and have been furnished with certificates of gentlemen who heard you, affirming that it is substantially correct."

"You cannot but be aware, sir, that the imputations which your language conveys are calculated, if believed, to destroy my character as a man, and that the charge